

THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)

Creating Jobs and Economic Benefits Across the State

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a state law that allows adopting communities to establish a dedicated local fund to support affordable housing, develop new parks, playgrounds, and recreational fields, protect open space, and preserve historic buildings and resources. CPA is vitally important to the Massachusetts economy, contributing jobs, supporting tourism, and providing vital sources of local and state revenue. A total of 147 cities and towns — 42% of the Commonwealth’s communities — have adopted CPA since it first went into effect in 2001.

CPA & Historic Preservation

Historic preservation has a strong positive economic effect on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, generating jobs, income, wealth, and taxes. In 2000, \$2.3 billion was spent on the rehabilitation of historic properties in Massachusetts, generating over 33,000 jobs. CPA funding has been used on over 2,000 historic projects, including the rehabilitation of hundreds of significant historic buildings.¹



CPA & Affordable Housing

CPA affordable housing creates jobs, income and tax revenues for local communities. CPA funding has contributed to the creation of more than 4,200 affordable housing units across the state, creating on average 380 direct construction-related jobs per year. Estimated five year indirect impacts of these housing units include the generation of more than 2,000 additional jobs and over \$59 million in revenues for local governments.²



¹ Lahr, Mike, David Listokin, and Uzoma Anukwe. 2002. Economic Impact of Historic Preservation in Massachusetts.

² Based on Koshgarian, Lindsay and Bernstein, Carrie, UMass Donahue Institute; Clayton-Matthews, Alan, Ph.D., Northeastern University. 2010. http://www.donahue.umassp.edu/docs/Economic_Contributions_of_Housing

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The Economic Benefits of CPA (*continued*)

CPA, Farms & Forests

CPA open space protection provides the Commonwealth with clean air and water, enhances and protects property values, and supports the agriculture and forestry industries. More than 13,300 acres of agricultural land and other open space have been protected with the help of CPA funds since 2001.



CPA & Recreation

CPA funding has created more than 640 new outdoor recreational assets, including parks, playgrounds and athletic fields.



CPA & Tourism

Parks, open space, historic sites and other areas open to the public provide recreation opportunities for residents and visitors, generating revenue and jobs for the local economy. An estimated 21.2 million tourism trips were taken in Massachusetts in 2008, generating \$15.1 billion in direct spending and \$943.4 million in tax revenue.³

³ Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. 2008 Annual Report. Available at http://www.massvacation.com/research/2008_annual_report.pdf

